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proposals we've discussed in committee, and I guess I would mention that this is something we have taken very seriously in the Education Committee and will continue to work on. I don't believe this...this is the final answer, but it is an improvement. And it's, obviously, a very important issue, both in terms of use of state funds and also in terms of the support of need-based students in the state. So I think this is an improvement and I do support it. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. As a member of the Education Committee, I thought...several members have spoken, but I thought it was necessary to state some of the background, that we had numerous hearings on the issue of need-based aid. We did have a bill, LB 1226. It was a proposal that was agreed upon by all the key players, and when I mention key players that is the University of Nebraska, the state colleges, Nebraska community colleges, the private career schools and the private independent colleges. They came together, worked out some of the differences that they had previously had in relationship to the need-based programs. Because of the politics in the Education Committee, that bill did not get out of committee. And I guess because of the principle, I'm not going to support. I know this is a compromise, but I'm not going to support Senator Chambers' amendment. I do feel that private colleges do provide a very important role in this state. I think, as been said before, 20 percent of all of the students from this state do attend, which is about 21,500 students. The statistics are very, very good in relationship to the number of baccalaureate degrees that these students attain. About one-third of all the baccalaureate degrees given in all of the colleges and universities come from private independent colleges. I think these are some points that are very important. Also I think it was mentioned before that most of these students, and all of the students that receive need-based aid at private colleges are Nebraska residents. This cannot be said of the other universities or state colleges. With that, I just thought that it was important to point out that there was agreement between all of the players, but that bill did not get out of committee and so